

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1-18 are pending in the application.
2. Previous specification objection and rejections under 35 USC § 112 and 35 USC § 103 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-18 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
Applicant's arguments are found persuasive. Komatsu in view of Saito and Kato appears to be the closest prior art of record. However, none of these references alone or in combination render the combination of elements listed in instant claims 1, 5, and 12. Namely, the combination of multiple voltage generators, cooling systems, discharge paths, temperature sensors, and the respective control circuit operation is not rendered obvious in view of the aforementioned references. Further, the control circuit operation of first and second cooling systems simultaneously, even when it is detected via temperature sensors and corresponding algorithm that one of the cooling systems need not function, is not rendered obvious by the prior art of record. Further, Aridome (US 2004/0257089) discloses a temperature abnormality detecting apparatus and method for a secondary battery comprising a battery module with multiple temperature

sensors. However, the aforementioned limitations of instant claims 1, 5, and 12 are not met nor rendered obvious in combination with the prior art of record. Therefore, independent claims 1, 5, and 12 are found allowable, and thus, the claims depending from them.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KENNETH DOUYETTE whose telephone number is (571)270-1212. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Basia Ridley can be reached on (571) 272-1453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair->

direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/K. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 1795

/Jonathan Crepeau/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795